

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 05041 221730Z

44

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OFA-01 SMI-01 EB-07 HEW-06 OES-05

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R 221645Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7379

UNCLAS LA PAZ 5041

E.OO. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, SNV, BL

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE RE EXPORT OF MONKEYS

1. AGENCY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MINISTER AND UNDERSEC, HAVE REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN CLARIFYING REQUEST MINISTRY HAS RECEIVED FROM U.S. FIRM TO EXPORT LARGE NUMBER MONKEYS. MINISTRY FIRST RECEIVED REQUEST FROM MERCK INSTITUTE FOR THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH, WEST POINT, PENN. 19486 (TEL. 699-5311) FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EXPORT 1800 MONKEYS OF SPECIES SANGINUS. MINISTER REFUSED AUTHORIZATION STATING THAT NUMBER REQUESTED TOO LARGE AND THAT SUCH REQUESTS SHOULD COME THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS. SUBSEQUENTLY FIRM RECEIVED LETTER FROM DR. MAURICE HILLEMANN VICE-PRESIDENT OF FIRM ASKING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EXPORT 300. LETTER WAS COVERED BY AUTHENTICATIONS OF DEPARTMENT AND DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA WHICH OFFICIALS INITIALLY BELIEVED TO CONSTITUTE U.S. OFFICIAL SANCTION FOR REQUEST.

2. EMBASSY CLARIFIED NATURE OF U.S. GOVT. AUTHENTICATIONS. OFFICIALS STATE THAT MINISTER WILLING TO AUTHORIZE EXPORT OF 300 MONKEYS FOR SCIENTIFIC USE GIVEN MERCK'S ASSURANCES OF HUMANE TREATMENT. HE ALSO WANTS ASSURANCES THAT COLLECTION IN BOLIVIAN WILL BE PROPERLY HANDLED. (FYI EXPLOITATION OF BOLIVIAN WILD LIFE CONSIDERED SENSITIVE TOPIC. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT ANIMALS SMUGGLED OUT OF COUNTRY ILLEGALLY CAUSING DEPOPULATION OF VARIOUS SPECIES.) IN FIRST LETTER MERCK STATED ITS AGENT IN BOLIVIA IS "RESEARCH ANIMAL BREEDING CENTER" IN SANTA CRUZ BUT NO SUCH FIRM HAS BEEN FOUND.

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3. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER ASSIST MINISTRY EMBASSY ASKS
THAT DEPARTMENT CONTACT MERCK AND ADVISE IT THAT MINISTRY
WILLING TO AUTHORIZE EXPORT OF MONKEYS PROVIDED IT HAS SAME
CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH MERCK ON BY WHOM AND HOW ANIMALS WILL
BE COLLECTED. PERHAPS PREFERRED APPROACH WOULD BE FOR MERCK TO
APPOINT AGENT IN LA PAZ TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH MINAG ON THESE
DETAILS.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LAPAZ05041
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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